

Message Text

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ORIGIN OES-02

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R 270243Z JAN 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

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FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 290090 ACTION ROME INFO BUENOS AIRES
9 DEC

QUOTE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: XV, IT

SUBJECT: PLANNED ITALIAN EXPEDITION TO ANTARCTICA

REF: A) ROME 17739, B) ROME 17306

1. ITALIAN EMBASSY OFFICER CALLED AT DEPARTMENT UNDER INSTRUCTION ON DEC. 5 AND 8 TO DISCUSS ANTARCTIC TREATY, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO REPORTED ALLEGATIONS BY ARGENTINA OF UNDERSTANDING AMONG CONSULTATIVE PARTIES AT VII AND VIII ANTARCTIC TREATY CONSULTATIVE MEETINGS THAT ACTIVITY OF NON-CONTRACTING PARTIES MUST BE APPROVED BY CONSULTATIVE PARTIES (REFTEL B).

2. DEPARTMENT INFORMED THE ITALIAN EMBOFF THAT NO SUCH UNDERSTANDING EXISTS. POSSIBLE ACTIVITIES IN ANTARCTICA BY
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NON-CONTRACTING STATES HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED AT VARIOUS CONSULTATIVE MEETINGS, BUT ONLY AT THE RECENT VIII CONSULTATIVE MEETING WAS THE MATTER INCORPORATED IN A RECOMMENDATION TO GOVERNMENTS WHICH HAS NOT YET BEEN ACTED UPON BY

ANY OF THE CONSULTATIVE PARTIES, I.E., THE TWELVE ORIGINAL SIGNATORIES TO THE ANTARCTIC TREATY. THAT RECOMMENDATION CITES LANGUAGE FROM THE FINAL REPORT OF THE PREVIOUS CONSULTATIVE MEETING WHICH CALLS FOR CONSULTATIONS AMONG TH TWELVE WITH A VIEW TO URGING OR INVITING STATES WHICH PLAN SUBSTANTIAL OR CONTINUING ACTIVITIES IN ANTARCTICA TO ADHERE TO THE TREATY AND THE EXTANT RECOMMENDATIONS.

3. ITALIAN EMBOFF WAS TOLD THAT IN U.S. VIEW, THE TREATY, WHILE APPLIES TO CONTRACTING PARTIES, ALLOWS FREEDOM OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH ANYWHERE IN ANTARCTICA EXCEPT IN AREAS SET ASIDE BY MUTUAL AGREEMENT FOR LIMITED ACCESS TO PRESERVE THEIR UNIQUE CHARACTER, I.E., THE SPECIALLY PROTECTED AREAS. TREATY DOES NOT EMPOWER SIGNATORIES TO PROHIBIT ACCESS BY NON-CONTRACTING STATES, BUT IN OUR VIEW ANY VISITOR TO ANTARCTICA SHOULD BE ADVISED OF THE TERMS OF THE TREATY AND RECOMMENDATIONS AND URGED TO COMPLY WITH THEM. CONSULTATIVE PARTIES HAVE AGREED THAT PERSONS IN CHARGE OF STATIONS IN ANARCTICA DO HAVE RESPONSIBILITIES WHICH REQUIRE CERTAIN CONTROLS ON ACCESS TO SUCH FACILITIES AND THAT PERMISSION TO VISIT STATIONS SHOULD BE SOUGHT IN ADVANCE.

4. RE CEPPARO TELEX TO NAVATT (REFTEL A) REGARDING U.S. PALMER STATION:

EMBASSY SHOULD INFORM THE LEADER OF THE ITALIAN EXPEDITION THAT THE STATION IS SMALL AND ACCOMODATIONS ARE EXTREMELY LIMITED. SIZE, BUDGET AND OTHER CONSTRAINTS MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE TO PROVIDE ANY SUPPORT FOR THE ITALIAN EXPEDITION. WHILE THERE IS NO OBJECTION TO BRIEF VISIT BY TOURISTS OR OTHER PRIVATE GROUPS, AN EXTENDED STAY AT OR AR HE STATION BY 15 MEN COULD IMPACT ADVERSELY ON THE ACTVIY, INCLUDING THE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH, CARRIED OUT AT THE STATION. WE WOULD, THEREFORE, PREFER THAT THE ITALIANS NOT RPT NOT ANNOUNCE PALMER STATION AS THE DESTINATION OF THEIR EXPEDITION. CONTENTS OF PARA 3 ABOVE
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MAY ALSO BE CONVEYED TO THE EXPEDITION LEADER.

5. FYI - CEPPARO TELEX STATES "THE TWELVE COUNTRIES WHICH ADHERE TO THE ANTARCTIC TREATY ... EXPRESSED THEIR SOLIDARITY AND INDICATED THAT THERE IS NO LEGAL REASON TO BLOCK THE EXPEDITION." THE USG HAS NOT RPT NOT COMMUNICATED WITH CEPPARO OR THE TWELVE CONSULTATIVE PARTIES ON THIS MATTER, ALTHOUGH WE UNDERSTAND AT LEAST ONE OTHER SIGNATORY (NEW ZEALAND) HAS NOTIFIED HIM IT SEES NO LEGAL OBSTACLES TO THE EXPEDITION SINCE IT UNDERSTANDS ITALIAN GOVERNMENT SUPPORTS IT AND IS MOVING TOWARD ADHERENCE TO THETREATY. A DEPARTMENT OFFICER, THROUGH A U.S. BUSINESS

AGENT OF LEPPARO, HAS UNOFFICIALLY AND INFORMALLY CONVEYED
U.S. VIEWS THAT THERE ARE NO RPT NO LEGAL OBSTACLES.
EMBASSY SHOULD BE AWARE THAT SOME STATES, E.G. ARGENTINA
AND CHILE, CLAIM SOVEREIGNTY OVER PARTS OF ANTARCTICA AND
COULD SEEK TO EXCLUDE NON-TREATY NATIONALS ON THIS BASIS.
U.S. DOES NOT RPT NOT RECOGNIZE ANY SUCH CLAIMS. END FYI.
KISSINGER
UNQTE.

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